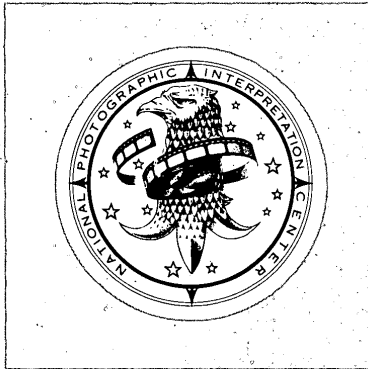


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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

IRANIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY PERSIAN GULF

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IRANIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY PERSIAN GULF

ABSTRACT

1. Photography shows that Iran is expanding and improving naval and air force facilities in the Persian Gulf area. Airfields have been constructed at Bandar Abbas and Jask, and the airfield at Bushehr has been expanded. A new naval base and a modern port have been constructed at Bandar Abbas, and the military and commercial port facilities at Bushehr have been modernized. Iran has also constructed a hovercraft base on Khark Island to which some of the ten hovercraft recently purchased from the United Kingdom have been deployed. Three of the new facilities are on the Iranian coast of the Persian Gulf, one is on an island near that coast, and one is on the coast of the Gulf of Oman (Figure 1). These facilities are in addition to the older installations at the northern end of the Persian Gulf. The older installations include the naval base, shipyard, and port facilities at Khorramshahr, the port facilities at Bandar-e Shahpur, and the Jazireh Ye Khark Naval Installation on Khark Island.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Bandar Abbas International Airfield

2. Bandar Abbas International Airfield is 5 nautical miles (nm) east-northeast of Bandar Abbas at 27-13-35N 056-22-38E. The last KEYHOLE coverage of the airfield site was in February 1966, at which time construction had not yet started on the airfield.

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3. As of March 1969, the airfield consisted of a NNE/SSW serviceable blacktop runway approximately 3,658 meters (12,000 feet) long, a parallel taxiway, two end-connecting links, two crossover links, a parking apron, and an administration and terminal building. Also, a military facility has been constructed at the airfield.

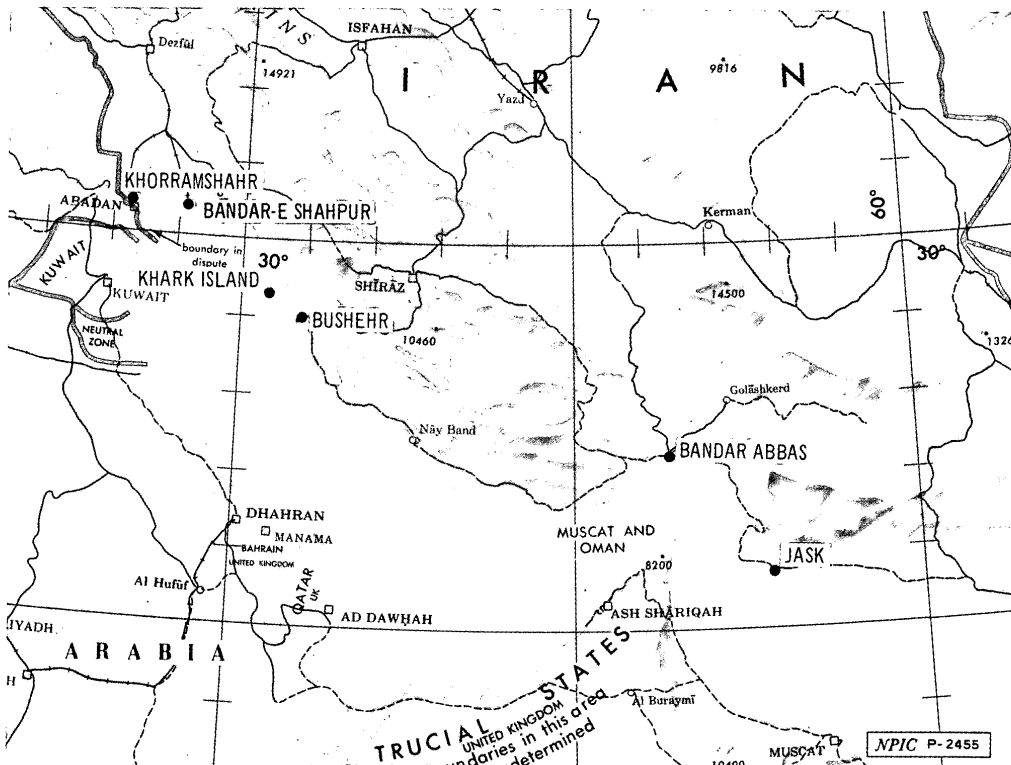


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP

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25X1Bushehr Airfield

4. Bushehr Airfield [] is 2 nm south-southwest of Bushehr at 28-57-07N 050-49-28E. The most recent complete coverage of this airfield was obtained [] (Figure 2). The last previous KEYHOLE coverage of the airfield was in May 1965, at which time expansion activities had not begun.

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5. As of October 1969, the airfield consisted of [] WNW/ESE serviceable blacktop runway with concrete touchdown areas, a concrete parking apron, and a link taxiway. The runway was being extended an additional 1,770 meters (5,800 feet) to the east-southeast, which would bring the overall length, when complete, to approximately 4,132 meters (13,550 feet). A new concrete parking apron with one double-bay, drive-through hangar had been constructed at the east-southeast end of the runway extension. A loop taxiway was also under construction. Support facilities included one terminal building with a control tower, a probable maintenance building, and a support area under construction. A barracks area containing 46 barracks, six quarters, and at least 40 associated buildings was just south of the runway. Air order of battle present [] consisted of one probable Lockheed Electra and two U-17A aircraft.

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Jask Airfield

6. Jask Airfield [] is 1.6 nm northeast of Jask on the coast of the Gulf of Oman at 25-39-18N 057-47-47E (Figure 3). The time new construction began at this airfield cannot be determined from KEYHOLE photography since the August 1971 photography on which this report is based was the first KEYHOLE coverage of the Jask area. Available information on the airfield indicates that expansion of the facilities, including construction of a new runway, began sometime after July 1966.²

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7. As of August 1971, this airfield consisted of a new [] NE/SW serviceable blacktop runway with two parking aprons, an alert apron, and a link taxiway. The old graded-earth runway is probably still serviceable. A new support area contained 20 probable barracks, six quarters, two probable maintenance buildings, two probable vehicle storage buildings, 13 storage buildings, and 26 support buildings. Construction activity was observed at both ends of the runway and in the support area. No aircraft have been observed.

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Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru

8. Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru [] is 5.5 nm west-southwest of Bandar Abbas at 27-09-10N 056-12-40E (Figure 4). This report on this naval installation is based on April 1971 photography. The only previous KEYHOLE coverage was obtained in April 1970, at which time the installation was in final stages of construction.

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9. As of April 1971, the port consisted of a commercial basin and a naval basin connected by a turnaround area and protected by two peninsular breakwaters. The naval basin contained a quay approximately 305 meters (1,000 feet) long at which naval craft are berthed. The commercial basin contained a quay approximately 1,005 meters (3,300 feet) long with six berths, one ore-loading conveyer, and an oil bunkering jetty. Support facilities included four administration buildings, three buildings with sawtooth roofs, two storage buildings, five support buildings, an earth-mounded building, and several sheds. Three large warehouses and extensive open storage facilities were just west of the entrance to the commercial basin. A POL storage area at the northeast end of the commercial basin contained one large vertical storage tank, eight small vertical storage tanks, three small floating-top tanks, an

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administration building, and 12 support buildings. Naval order of battle observed at this facility [] consisted of the following:

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- One patrol escort (PF), Naghdi F-26
- One motor gunboat (PGM)
- One ARL-1-class floating workshop (YR)
- Two tugs
- Three freighters
- Four trawlers
- 30 small craft (at least)
- One floating crane

Bushehr Port Facilities

10. Bushehr Port Facilities [] is on the north edge of Bushehr at 28-59-28N 050-50-15E (Figure 5). Prior to August 1971, the latest previous KEYHOLE coverage of this installation was in May 1965. At that time modernization of the port facilities had not yet begun.

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11. [] this installation consisted of a quay approximately 274 meters (900 feet) long used by commercial vessels and an L-shaped pier used by naval ships. A probable helicopter landing pad was observed at the base of the L-shaped pier. Support facilities included three administration buildings, a large warehouse, nine probable storage buildings, and extensive open storage areas.

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12. A new naval installation and a small repair yard have been constructed approximately 2,500 meters (8,200 feet) southeast of the main port facilities at Bushehr (Figure 6). The naval installation consisted of a C-shaped pier with berthing facilities along three of its sides, three probable maintenance buildings, and three storage buildings. The repair yard contained a marine railway, a transverse repairway, an administration building, a maintenance building served by an overhead crane, five storage buildings, and extensive open storage areas. Three finger piers served the storage area.

13. Naval order of battle observed at the Bushehr facilities [] was as follows:

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At Main Port Facilities:

- One motor gunboat (PGM)
- Two freighters
- Two tugs
- Four barges
- 30 small craft (at least)
- One probable offshore drilling support barge

At New Naval Facilities:

- One patrol escort (PF), Babr
- Two small freighters

Khark Island Hovercraft Base

14. Khark Island Hovercraft Base [] is on the northeast shore of Khark Island, 30.5 nm northwest of Bushehr at 29-15-43N 050-20-08E (Figure 7). KEYHOLE photography of Khark Island obtained in September 1969 reveals that the hovercraft base did not exist at that time. No further KEYHOLE coverage was obtained until August 1971.

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15. [] this newly constructed secured base contained a concrete ramp leading from the sea to a hovercraft

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parking area. A double-bay hangar-type building and two single-bay hangar-type buildings were on the edges of the hovercraft parking area. Support facilities included three probable administration buildings, six barracks, one probable maintenance building, four probable storage buildings, one storage building partially underground, and eight support buildings. Order of battle present on [redacted] consisted of one BH.7 hovercraft and one SRN.6 hovercraft, both of which were on the ramp.

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REQUIREMENT

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